



PEI Provincial Historica Heritage Fair Program

Background

The Historica Fairs program is an educational initiative of the Historica Foundation of Canada that provides an opportunity for students to explore any aspect of Canadian heritage by creating a dynamic history project for public presentation. In Prince Edward Island, the Provincial Historica Heritage Fair is coordinated by the Department of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour. A Planning Committee with representatives from the Department of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour, the Department of Education, teachers, the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation, and other heritage organizations plan and carry out the Provincial Heritage Fair held each May.

Students use the medium of their choice to tell stories and share information about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones and achievements.

Prince Edward Island's involvement with the Historica Fairs program began in 1995 when Charlottetown hosted the first National Heritage Fair. Since then, the program has grown to include school-based fairs across the Island, a Provincial Heritage Fair held every May and representation at the National Heritage Fair each July.

Goals and Objectives

- To heighten awareness of Canadian heritage
- To celebrate Canada's cultural diversity
- To promote and publicize the variety and uniqueness of our heritage
- To create an exciting learning environment for students of social studies
- To encourage individuals and communities to celebrate their role in Canada's history

The Three Levels of Historica Fairs

School Fairs

Every year the Provincial Historica Heritage Fair Committee asks schools across the province to indicate if they will be hosting a school-based fair and if they will be participating in the Provincial Historica Heritage Fair. Registration forms are found online at www.gov.pe.ca/go/heritagefair and are due in November. School fairs are usually held between January and April. While the goal of the Heritage Fair Program is to be non-competitive, schools are invited to select representative projects for the provincial fair. Selection is often based on a judging process.

Historica Provincial Heritage Fair

The Historica Provincial Heritage Fair brings together approximately 200 to 300 students. Schools are informed of how many students are eligible to attend the provincial fair based on the total number of students participating at the school level. Held in early May, the provincial fair is a day-long event that includes judging to select representatives for the National Historica Fair. A number of local organizations sponsor prizes for theme-related categories. Also, a number of awards are presented to recognize achievements in various subjects. Prizes are also awarded on behalf of national sponsoring organizations such as RBC, Hbc and CN, as well as the Laurier LaPierre medal awarded in recognition of exceptional enthusiasm and dedication to history and heritage.

National Historica Fair

The National Historica Fair is a week-long event held each July in a different Canadian community. Fifteen students from each province are invited to display their heritage projects and take part in a heritage camp which includes tours and visits to heritage sites and other activities. Costs associated with the National Historica Fair are borne by the Historica Foundation of Canada and its sponsors. **Note: Projects selected for the National Heritage Fair can be represented by a maximum of one student.**

Organizing a School-Based Heritage Fair

Getting Organized

The level of organization required will depend on the size of your fair. Will it involve a single class or the whole school? A fair involving a single class can be looked after by an interested teacher. Larger fairs take more planning and may benefit from an organizing committee.

Who Will be Involved?

Will participation in the Heritage Fair be voluntary or mandatory? Some teachers use the Heritage Fair program as a class project. Others view it as an extra curricular activity. Schools are encouraged to involve children from grades 4 to 9 in school-based fairs, however, **the provincial and national fairs are open to students in grades 5 to 9 only.**

When and Where to Hold the Fair

When you have your fair is up to you. Having your school fair in mid-February is a great way to celebrate National Heritage Week! Student registrations for the provincial fair must be in one month prior to the provincial fair. Student registration forms are found online at www.gov.pe.ca/go/heritagefair. Making sure that your fair doesn't conflict with other major school activities might garner increased participation from students.

Choose a location that suits the scale of your fair. Smaller fairs are often held right in the classroom. Larger events may require a gym, library or community hall. Whatever the venue, many schools organize their fairs so that other students, parents and even members of the public can view the projects. Public display is one of the goals of the program.

Judging

While the Historica Fair Program is non-competitive, schools must decide which students will attend the provincial fair. This decision is often based on a judging process. Smaller fairs often have teachers act as judges. Larger fairs commonly recruit volunteers to take on this role.

Here are some suggestions on how to organize your judging:

- Decide on what your judging criteria will be. Sample judging forms are available from the provincial fair coordinator.
- Determine how many judges you'll need. Ideally each project will be judged by different judges on two separate occasions.
- Make a list of individuals whom you can contact. Teachers, retired teachers, museum staff, local historians may be available to assist with judging.
- Prepare a package to be sent to judges giving information on how the judging will take place. This package should include the time, the place, the evaluation form they will be using, and include a sheet of questions the judges can ask.
- Prepare the judging package that will be given to the judges the day or night before your fair. It should include a name tag, a list of projects to be judged and evaluation forms.
- Have volunteers around to help judges find their projects.
- Plan a judges' orientation to take place a half-hour before the fair begins.
- Send out thank you notes to those who volunteered as judges.
- Depending on the length of time judging may take, it might be a nice gesture to offer refreshments or a light lunch.

Suggested questions for judges

Your judges will find that some students have prepared an oral presentation, but others may need a bit of coaxing. Some questions judges might ask are:

- Tell me about your project.
- What was the most interesting thing you learned while doing this project?
- What sort of research did you do for your project?
- Were you able to find primary resources?
- Did you interview anyone for information?
- Did you find any surprises in your research?
- Where did you get the idea for your project?
- How long did it take to do your project?
- If you had more time, is there anything you would have changed or added?
- How did you do your display? Video? etc.

Heritage Fair Project Guidelines

The program is non-competitive in nature, with an emphasis on the importance of the learning process and the exchange of ideas. Prince Edward Island projects eligible for presentation at the Provincial Historica Heritage Fair and the National Historica Fair must come from students in grades five to nine. Projects can be created by individuals or in groups. ***Please note that projects selected for the national fair can be represented by one student only.***

The Historica Fair Program allows for a lot of organizational flexibility. The one constant in the program is the nature of the projects themselves. Following these guidelines will ensure that your projects will be acceptable at the provincial and national level.

- All projects must have a Canadian theme – history, geography, heritage or culture – and involve research conducted by the participant(s).
- Students may submit their project in either of Canada's two official languages.
- Projects should be accompanied by written research undertaken by the student(s) in the course of developing the project.
- All submissions must be mainly student produced, although it is recognized that teachers or other adult advisors might help students.
- Teachers should ensure projects are historically correct.
- All presentations must avoid profanity, racial or sexist remarks, innuendo, negative stereotypes or other potentially offensive matter.
- Any person/organizations clearly identifiable in a presentation must have given permission to the presenter to use the image.
- Projects are the responsibility of the participants. The Heritage Fair cannot be responsible for any projects lost, stolen or damaged while left unattended.
- Students attending the Provincial Historica Heritage Fair must be registered with the Provincial Heritage Fair Committee. Some student information is required including: a brief description of the project, the student's full name, school and grade, whether the student will be presenting in English or French, name of contact teacher(s) and parents(s)/guardian signature. *Students presenting in pairs or in a group at the provincial fair, must identify, prior to attending the provincial fair, which one student would represent the project should it be selected to go on to the national fair.* This is in accordance with Historica Foundation policy regarding attendance at the national fair.

Projects may be submitted in either a single format or any combination of the following formats:

A: 3-Dimensional Presentations

B: Creative Writing and Performance

C: Multimedia Presentations

A. 3-Dimensional Presentations

Projects could be specific to one period of time, or they could display development and progression from past to present. Projects should be suitable for table display and should not exceed 150 centimetres (59.06 inches) in width, 100 centimetres (39.37 inches) in height, or 80 centimetres (31.5 inches) in depth.

Student projects may include but are not limited to:

- models
- demonstrations
- computer displays
- crafts
- photography
- collections
- videos/DVDs
- posters
- dioramas
- 3-dimensional artistic displays
- maps
- caricatures

For ideas on developing a heritage fair exhibit see the Teacher Resource Kit on the Historica Foundation website www.historica.ca for the document *Exhibit guide for student projects* developed by Historic Resources branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

B. Creative Writing and Performance

Presentations and performances must not exceed 15 minutes. Students are encouraged to use their own means of cultural expression to prepare and communicate stories about Canadian history.

Short Stories and Diary Entries

Length must be 2 to 11 pages

Legibility, style and grammar will be considered.

Poetry

Minimum length – 14 lines

Legibility, style and grammar will be considered.

Scripts

Scripts must be:

2 to 4 pages for grades 4 to 6;

5 to 10 pages for grades 7 to 9.

Music and Dance

Presentation of music and dance can be in any form: classic, contemporary or alternative. Possible ideas for projects include the performance of folk songs, construction of simple musical instruments and composition of original works.

Debate and Public Speaking

Projects could be re-enactments of historic speeches and debates, or a modern day debate about historic events. Other ideas include dramatic monologues, original oral presentations and speaking in character.

Drama

Presentations may be of existing or original work.

C. Multimedia Presentations

The maximum size of displays must not exceed 150 centimetres (59.06 inches) in width, 100 centimetres (39.37 inches) in height, or 80 centimetres (31.5 inches) in depth.

Presenters requiring electronics, computers or projectors to mount their exhibit should discuss their equipment needs with fair organizers in advance of the event. Student presenters will be responsible for their artwork and their own technical equipment. Students participating in the national fair will be responsible for meeting their own computer software and hardware needs.

Computer based

All submissions must be on disk, CD-ROM or ZIP disk. Projects should be undertaken by the student(s) with minimal technical assistance from teachers/parents/guardians. Submissions must include a title and credits.

Video

All submissions must be in VHS or DVD format and must not exceed 15 minutes in duration. All videos should be written and directed by students with minimal technical support from teachers, advisors or parents. Submissions must include a title and credits.

Audio

All submissions must be on 1/4" audiocassette or CD and must not exceed five minutes. Submissions must include a title and credits.

Photographs

All photographs must be the original work of the presenter. All photographs and equipment are the responsibility of the presenter. Photographs must have a title or be part of a labelled display.

Artwork

All artwork must be the original work of the presenter, and may include maps, paintings, drawings, prints, posters or other visual work not mentioned above.

Heritage Fair Project Ideas with a Prince Edward Island Theme

Topics

famous politicians
 Lieutenant Governors
 famous women
 Mi'kmaq
 settlement
 land issue
 surveyors
 Confederation
 famous sports heroes
 celebrations
 cities, towns, villages
 historic buildings
 historic building styles
 historic architects
 historic transportation
 catastrophes
 industry
 furniture making
 farming and fishing
 early newspapers
 artists
 writers
 doctors
 folklore
 natural history
 genealogy
 archaeology

Examples

George Coles, Edward Whelan, Aubin-Edmond Arsenault
 Edmund Fanning, C.D. Smith
 Georgina Fane Pope, Mona Wilson
 culture, history, treaties
 settlement by the Irish, Acadian, Lebanese
 land lottery, tenant league, escheat movement
 Samuel Holland, George Wright, Admiral Bayfield
 pros and cons
 Lou Campbell, Bill Halpenny, Charlie Ryan
 Canada Day, Victoria Day, Feast of the Assumption
 the history of: Charlottetown, Summerside, Souris
 Province House, Farmers' Bank of Rustico
 Queen Anne Revival, Romanesque, Georgian
 W.C. Harris, George Baker, John Plaw
 horses, steamships, railways, iceboats
 fires, shipwrecks
 shipbuilding, brick making
 Chappell, Wilt, Baker, Butcher
 mussel mud, oyster fishing, dairy farming
 the *Journal*, the *Progress*, *L'Impartial*
 Robert Harris, Fanny Bayfield, Mary Allison Doull
 L.M. Montgomery, Sir Andrew Macphail, Gilbert Buote
 Dr. Roddie MacDonald, Dr. Isidore Gallant, Dr. Gus MacDonald
 folksongs, ghost stories
 rivers, dune systems, forests
 What is the history of your family?
 the Roma settlement, Port-la-Joye, the Jones site

Where to do Research

There are lots of places to find information for fair projects. Some places to visit include:

- school and local libraries
- local museums, heritage sites and centres
- the provincial archives
- family members and neighbours
- Internet sites

Don't forget that many of the richest resources are the people within the community. Parents, grandparents, neighbours and others may have first-hand experience of any given topic. Talking to these people will help give historical facts personal perspective. The Public Archives and Records Office of Prince Edward Island has a

Guide to Sources for Heritage Fair Projects available at
www.gov.pe.ca/cca/index.php3?number=1017594&lang=E

What Makes a Great Historica Heritage Fair Project?

A great Historica Heritage Fair project is more than a collection of historical facts copied from books or the Internet and stuck up on bristle board. Heritage is an exploration of what our history means to us, what we feel is important about the past.

Books can tell you when the East Point lighthouse was built, but what did the beacon mean to your grandfather who fished out of North Lake? The best heritage fair projects start with good historical research from a variety of sources and then making connections with our everyday lives.

Historica Fairs Showcase

Students may submit their heritage fair projects to Historica's online Showcase. Students can save their written work as a text document and upload three or four image files to be submitted for inclusion on the Historica website www.histori.ca. This Showcase preserves students' work and can be a reference to other students and teachers of project ideas and examples.

Contact Information

For more information on the Historica Fairs program contact:

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You can also learn more about the fair program through the Historica website at www.histori.ca where you'll also find a broad range of teacher and student resources. Information on the PEI Provincial Historica Heritage Fair, including applicable forms, is found at www.gov.pe.ca/go/heritagefair.